

MANDATORY TRICHOMONIASIS TESTING TAKES EFFECT AUGUST 1, 2000

As of August 1, 2000, all bulls that are nine months of age and older in Utah must be tested for the livestock cattle disease trichomoniasis. The new law (R-58-21), was created this year as a means to control and prevent the spread of trichomoniasis, a venereal disease that causes infertility and abortions in female cattle. Veterinarians certified by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) must conduct the tests.

"We are encouraging everyone who raises, sells or is anyway associated with cattle in Utah to have their bulls tested for trichomoniasis by a certified veterinarian annually." Said Dr. Michael R. Marshall, state veterinarian "This is both a health and economic issue for cattle owners," he added.

According to the new trichomoniasis rules, all bulls nine months of age and older being offered for sale for reproductive purposes in the state of Utah must be tested for trichomoniasis within 30 days prior to sale and shall bear a current official trichomoniasis test tag. Exceptions to this requirement are:

- 1). Bulls going to slaughter or to a qualified feedlot.
- 2). Dairy bulls in total confinement operations.
- 3). Feeder bulls in total confinement, which are not exposed to female cattle.

All bulls, which test positive to trichomoniasis must proceed by direct movement within 14 days to:

- 1). Slaughter at an approved slaughter facility.
- 2). A qualified feedlot for finish feeding and slaughter.
- 3). An approved auction market for sale to one of the above facilities.

Such bulls must move only when accompanied by a VS 1-27 Form issued by the testing veterinarian or other regulatory official.

Anyone found in Violation of the new trichomoniasis law is subject to fines and administrative action by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.


Three additional rules regulating livestock health also went into effect August 1, 2000. They are:

- Rule R58-18 Chronic Wasting Disease.
Rule R58-1 Brucellosis.
Rule R58-22 Equine Infectious Anemia.

For more information about the new trichomoniasis testing rules, or any other livestock information, visit the UDAF's Internet web page at: www.ag.state.ut.us. or call the UDAF at (801) 538-7161.


The UDAF's Division of Animal Industry is distributing the poster shown below to inform cattle owners of the need to test their bulls.

Trich Testing It's The Law



It's the law
R58-21-3. "All bulls nine months of age and older residing in Utah, and all commuter bulls must be tested for trichomoniasis annually..."

For more information contact your local veterinarian or the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food at: (801) 538-7161 or www.ag.state.ut.us.



Utah Department of
Agriculture
and Food

UTAH AG NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2000

2000

Agriculture: Your Food Resource

on the

web



Governor
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food
Public Information Office Editor

Michael O. Leavitt
Cary G. Peterson
Larry Lewis

Safe Handling Practices for Melons

From: The U.S. Food and
Drug Administration (FDA)

In recent years there have been several foodborne outbreaks associated with melons. The most recent outbreak (April/May 2000) was due to *Salmonella poona* and was associated with cantaloupe consumption in 7 western states (California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington) and British Columbia, Canada. A total of 43 illnesses have been reported.

In 1991, FDA provided guidance to the retail and food service industries that outlined safe handling practices. That guidance has now been updated to be consistent with the FDA Food Code. It reinforces the fact that following some simple guidelines will help keep fruit fresh as well as safe.

- ◆ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before cutting melons.
- ◆ Before cutting, wash the outer surface of the melon thoroughly with cool tap water to remove surface dirt.
- ◆ Wash all food contact equipment and utensils that contact cut melons (cutting boards, etc.) thoroughly with hot soapy water, rinse, sanitize, and air dry.
- ◆ Use a barrier such as gloves, deli paper, or an appropriate utensil to touch cut melons. Do not touch cut melons with bare hands.
- ◆ Maintain the temperature of cut melons at 41 degrees F or below. Cut melons should be displayed in a refrigerated case, not just displayed on top of ice. Uncut melons do not need to be refrigerated.
- ◆ Date mark cut melons that are held more than 24 hours to indicate that they must be consumed or discarded within seven days.
- ◆ Mark the time when cut melons are displayed without refrigeration. Cut melons may be displayed for a maximum of four hours without temperature control. and, if not eaten, must be thrown away at the end of four hours.

For more information, contact Jeanette Lyon, Retail Food and Interstate Travel Team, at (202) 205-5558 or by e-mail at jlyon@cfsan.fda.gov.

GOVERNOR LEAVITT SEEKS HELP FOR DROUGHT STRICKEN RANCHERS

Managers of federal grazing lands in Utah are being asked for maximum flexibility in the use of grazing allotments to help Utah livestock ranchers cope with the affects of this devastatingly dry summer.

Governor Mike Leavitt issued letters to the director of the Bureau of Land Management in Utah, and the U.S. Forest Service's Regional Forester in Utah asking that livestock be allowed to continue using public rangeland during the current drought.

"On behalf of Utah's livestock industry, I am requesting that federal land managers offer the maximum flexibility possible to provide critical drought relief for our ranchers," said Governor Leavitt.

This year's prolonged high temperatures, plus the sustained hot dry winds have blow-dried Utah's landscape into conditions that are catastrophic for many ranchers.

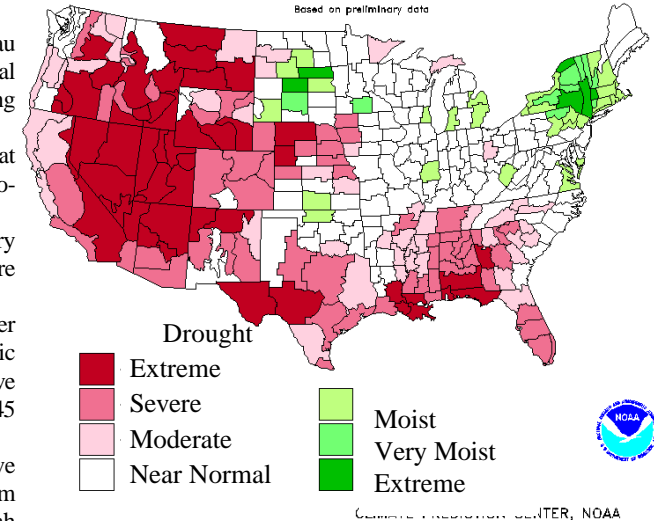
In June many reliable water sources dried up and a record number of wildfires have blackened thousands of acres of private and public rangeland. According to the USDA, fires in the Great Basin have exceeded 1.15 million acres, while the Nation as a whole totaled 4,317,945 acres, or 188 per cent of the 10-year average.

With these extreme conditions present federal land managers have reportedly asked many Utah ranchers to remove their herds early from their grazing allotments—the last source of affordable feed. Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson is assisting the governor in the call for help. "Allowing flexible livestock grazing on public lands now would be beneficial for both rancher and land managers," Peterson said. "Grasses on the ranges now are in a very dry dormant state, and grazing at this point would not hurt the plant's ability to survive," Peterson added. Utah's livestock industry generates nearly \$740 million, or 75 percent, of Utah's agricultural economy. Much of rural Utah depends on income generated from ranching.

Two counties have already been designated disaster areas, (San Juan and Box Elder) with others expected to also receive this designation soon. Currently the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies including the Farm Service Agency and individual producers are gathering data documenting losses due to drought in Utah.

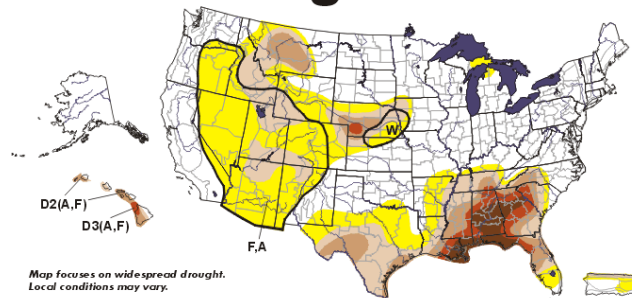
DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX BY DIVISION
(LONG TERM PALMER)

AUG 12, 2000
Based on preliminary data



August 8, 2000 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

U.S. Drought Monitor



Reading The Maps

The two USDA maps document the current and long term drought conditions in Utah. The map to the left indicates Utah, like other western states, is in an area of abnormally dry or in the first stages of drought. The map above forecasts extreme drought conditions for Utah in the coming weeks. Visit: www.usda.gov for